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2 Koreas hold more talks today

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SEOUL, South Korea — In a conciliatory mood after its success as host of the summer Olympics last month, South Korea returns to the conference table with communist North Korea today to test whether trade ties, summit talks and reconciliation are in the cards.

The meeting at the truce village of Panmunjom in the de-militarized zone dividing the peninsula will mark the fifth attempt in recent months to arrange a major conference between lawmakers from the two rival states to discuss a lessening of tensions.

In a bid to unblock the negotiations and ensure that a substantial full-dress meeting can be arranged, Seoul officials say they are planning to accept North Korean proposals they had rejected at earlier meetings.

Some diplomats and journalists expect the North to agree to the Souths call for a summit between President Roh Tae-woo and Pyongyangs Kim Il-sung. Others, however, expect the communists to reject the summit moves and launch a fresh barrage of demands in order to end the parliamentary talks.

"North Korea is not about to start talking with us," said Lee Kang-gul, an editorial writer with the daily Kyong-hyang Shinmun. "But they may start to make approaches to

Washington and Tokyo."

In another diplomatic payoff from the Olympics, the Transport Ministry said yesterday that China — one of North Korea's main backers — has agreed to allow South Korea's national airline to continue on a month-to-month basis overflights of China allowed by special arrangement during the Olympics.

Korean Air and the Civil Aviation Administration of China have agreed that 17 Korean Air flights from Seoul to Bangkok may pass over China this month, a ministry spokesman said. This flight path cuts 41 minutes flying time from the route, which includes stops in Taiwan and Hong Kong, he said.

Ministry officials declined to say if a similar arrangement is being worked out with Moscow — North Korea's other main backer. South Korean officials have said they hope flights over the Soviet Union to Europe allowed during the Olympics would continue after the games.

Seoul has given Pyongyang advance notice through press leaks of its tactical about-face.

Newspapers here carried reports yesterday quoting unidentified "political sources" as saying the government and political parties would agree to a North Korean proposal for a "mass participatory" conference in Pyongyang.

At the earlier talks in August and September, the North called for a conference between Seoul's 299 Na-

tional Assembly representatives and its 655 Supreme Peoples Assembly delegates plus representatives from "social groups." The South held out for more manageable numbers.

The "political sources" said Seoul would also drop its objection to the Norths preferred agenda — a non-aggression agreement. "Non-aggression" has hitherto been interpreted in the South as a ploy to engineer the removal of the 42,000 U.S. forces in South Korea.

National Assembly sources said Seoul's five-man delegation will suggest a closed-door meeting today to prevent it from being turned into a forum for propaganda.

Seoul also will press its point at the United Nations next week when President Roh Tae-woo delivers his scheduled address to the General Assembly. He is expected to repeat his call for a summit with the Norths leader of 40 years, Kim Il-sung. It is the first U.N. address by a Korean leader.

Seoul's Foreign Minister Choi Kwang-soo suggested this week that South Korea may seek unilateral entry into the world body if the North continues to oppose simultaneous entry. The North maintains that entry of the two Korea into the United Nations would most likely permanently seal their division.

Last week Seoul proposed tariff-free trade between the two Koreas and removed a ban on its businessmen pursuing deals with North Korea.